

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 10061 100502Z

12/53

ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 /032 W

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O 081340Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7038

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 10061

STADIS//////////

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 10061 VICE 0061)

FOR KRATZER FROM SCHNEIDER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR TECH IN

SUBJECT: TARAPUR: DECLASSIFICATION OF HUBERMAN LETTERS OF JUNE

29, 1976

REF: STATE 168393

1. I THOUGHT IT BEST TO CHECK WITH THE GOI REGARDING DECLASSIFY-
ING THE FIGURES WHICH THEY PROVIDED US FOR THE HUBERMAN LETTER
ON HEAVY WATER. I TOLD THEM WE COULD DECLASSIFY THE SPECIFIC
NUMBERS, USE APPROXIMATIONS, OR DELETE THE FIGURES. FOREIGN SECRE-
TARY MEHTA HAS JUST CALLED ME TO SAY THAT HE HAS DISCUSSED THE
DECLASSIFICATION OF THE NUMBERS WITH DR. SETHNA WHO IS IN DELHI.
SETHNA DOES NOT HAVE ACCESS TO HIS DATA HERE AND BOTH THE FOREIGN
SECRETARY AND SETHNA EARNESTLY APPEAL TO US TO DEFER DECLASSI-
FICATION FOR ANOTHER DAY WHILE THEY EXAMINE THE MATTER. I ASKED
IF THEY WOULD HAVE ANY OBJECTION TO OUR DELETING THE DATA AND
DECLASSIFYING THE BALANCE OF THE LETTER. MEHTA REPLIED THAT SINCE
I HAD RAISED THE ISSUE THEY CONTINUED TO REQUEST ANOTHER DAY TO
EXAMINE IT. OF COURSE IF WE WISHED TO DECLASSIFY UNILATERALLY
(I.E., WITHOUT CONSULTING THEM) THAT WOULD BE ANOTHER MATTER.

2. THIS WAS DONE QUITE AMICABLY AND MEHTA AND SETHNA WISHED TO
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BE HELPFUL. HOWEVER, NOTICE HAS BEEN VERY SHORT (I TRIED FOR MOST

OF THE DAY TO REACH VELLODI WHO WAS COMPLETELY TIED UP IN A NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE ON PRESS COOPERATION AND MY MESSAGE GOT THROUGH TO MEHTA ONLY LATE IN THE DAY.) I HOPE THAT THE JOINT COMMITTEE WILL UNDERSTAND THAT THE GOI PROVIDED US WITH ITS OWN DATA AND THAT ITS REQUEST FOR 24 HOURS TO CONSIDER DECLASSIFICATION IS A REASONABLE ONE. I STRONGLY URGE THAT THEY BE GIVEN TIME. RELATIONSHIPS MAY BE AFFECTED IF WE DO NOT.

3. IN REGARD TO THE BUY-BACK LETTER, I SIMPLY INFORMED MEA THAT SUCH A LETTER HAD BEEN SENT TO THE NRC AND MIGHT AT SOME TIME BE DECLASSIFIED. I SAID WE WOULD INFORM MEA OF THIS LETTER'S RELEASE WHEN A DECISION IS MADE. I THOUGHT IT BEST TO MENTION THE EXISTENCE OF THIS LETTER SO THAT IT WOULD NOT COME AS A SURPRISE WHEN WE DO RELEASE IT BUT I GATHER FROM PARAGRAPH 5B, REFTTEL, THAT WE HAVE NOT YET FINALLY DECIDED TO DO SO.

4. I AGREE THAT THE DELETIONS PROPOSED IN PARAGRAPH 3 A, B AND C SHOULD BE MADE. I HAVE NOT, OF COURSE, DISCUSSED THIS WITH MEA, NOR HAVE I CONVEYED TO THEM THE TEXT OF THE LETTER. I DID NOT GO BEYOND INFORMING THEM THAT WE HAD IN MIND DECLASSIFYING A LETTER WHICH INCLUDED THE DATA THEY HAD PROVIDED AND ASKING THEM ABOUT THE RELEASE OF THE DATA.

5. IN ADDITION TO YOUR PROPOSED DELETIONS, WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT DECLASSIFICATION OF THE SECOND SENTENCE IN THE FIRST FULL PARAGRAPH OF PAGE 4 IN THE HEAVY WATER LETTER WHICH READS IN PART, "INFORMAL UNDERSTANDINGS WERE REACHED WITH POTENTIAL US SUPPLIERS OF HEAVY WATER THAT US TECHNOLOGY OR EQUIPMENT WOULD NOT BE SUPPLIED FOR THESE INDIAN PLANTS NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF PART 110." IF THE INDIANS ARE NOT AWARE THAT WE TOOK THIS ACTION THEY WILL BE DISTRESSED THAT THE USG WENT BEYOND THE REQUIREMENTS OF LAW TO RESTRICT THEIR ACCESS. IN ANY EVENT, IF WE MAKE THIS PUBLIC THEY MAY BE EMBARRASSED AND FEEL OBLIGED TO TAKE PUBLIC ISSUE WITH US, CLAIMING US DISCRIMINATION.

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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